

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/670,304

Examiner

Emmanuel Bayard

Applicant(s)

FRIESEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 9/26/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to communication filed on 9/26/03 in which claims 1-20 are pending. The application has been fully considered therefore this case is in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior arts of record fail to anticipate or render obvious the following recited features: a comparator, responsive to the selector, deriving phase difference information between the selected ESYNC signal and a System Synchronization (SSYNC) signal distributed to the peripheral shelf from a control shelf of the multi-shelf communications network node; and c. transmission means for conveying the phase difference information for the selected ESYNC signal to the control shelf, employing the selector and the comparator providing flexibility in conveying any ESYNC signal from any interface card associated with the peripheral shelf to the control shelf of the multi-shelf network node over a reduced infrastructure as recited in claim 1. An External Synchronization (ESYNC) signal regenerator providing an ESYNC signal derived from the selected phase difference information stream and a System Synchronization (SSYNC) signal to a System Synchronization Unit (SSU) for synchronization of the SSYNC signal to the regenerated ESYNC signal, the selector and the ESYNC signal regenerator providing flexibility in receiving at the control shelf any ESYNC signal from any peripheral shelf associated with the multi-shelf network node, employing the selector further reducing the complexity of a the control shelf as recited in claim 8. Deriving phase difference

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information from a comparison between the selected ESYNC signal and a SSYNC signal provided from the control shelf; and d. conveying phase difference information regarding the selected ESYNC signal from the peripheral shelf to the control shelf, selecting the ESYNC signal and deriving phase difference information at the peripheral shelf providing flexibility in conveying ESYNC signals from the interface cards associated with the peripheral shelf to the control shelf of the multi-shelf network node over a reduced infrastructure as recited in claim 13.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fukumara U.S. Pub No 2002/0027966 A1 teaches a digital PLL device.

Sato et al U.S. Patent No 6,229,573 B1 teaches a synchronization circuit.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel Bayard whose telephone number is 571 272 3016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:Am-4:30PM)
Alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571 272 2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Emmanuel Bayard
Primary Examiner
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12/6/06

EMMANUEL BAYARD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

